

A2

40(AMENDED). An adjuvant composition comprising an effective adjuvanting amount of IL-12 and an effective amount of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of a nitric oxide inhibiting agent and a neutralizing agent, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

*sub B2*

41(AMENDED). A vaccine composition comprising an effective adjuvanting amount of IL-12, an effective amount of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of a nitric oxide inhibiting agent and a neutralizing agent, and an effective protective amount of a vaccine antigen in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Add new claim 42 as follows:

A3

*sub B2*

42. A method of preparing an adjuvant composition comprising combining in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier an effective amount of a vaccine antigen, and an effective adjuvanting amount of IL-12 and an effective amount of at least one agent selected from the group consisting of a nitric oxide inhibiting agent and a neutralizing agent.